

George Skibine was named as the IGMS's second Director in approximately January 1995, and began serving in that capacity on Feb. 6. Prior to his appointment as IGMS Director, Skibine worked in the general Indian legal activities branch of the DOI Solicitor's Office, on matters involving Indian self-determination and claims against the United States.⁷¹ Skibine had not worked on gaming issues while in the Solicitor's Office and had only a general familiarity with the issues involved in Indian gaming. Skibine had worked in the Solicitor's Office for approximately 18 years, and he explained that he sought the IGMS post because it offered an opportunity for economic advancement that was unlikely to present itself soon in the Solicitor's Office.⁷²

Authority to determine policy issues on Indian affairs at Interior is vested in the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. The position is one which requires presidential nomination and Senate confirmation. Ada Deer, a member of the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin and a former elected leader of that tribe, served as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs from July 16, 1993, through November 1997. As a general matter, according to Deer and other DOI witnesses, Deer was not extensively involved in gaming decisions, which had been closely monitored by Secretary Babbitt's counselor, John Duffy, for nearly seven months by the time of Deer's confirmation. As discussed in greater detail later, Deer signed several letters responding to concerned parties but did not participate in the actual consideration of the Hudson application;

⁷¹Skibine reported that he continued to do extensive work throughout the spring, summer and fall of 1995 on matters over which he previously had responsibility at the Solicitor's Office, including proposed rulemaking for the Indian Self-Determination Act.

⁷²When Skibine was named IGMS Director, he advanced one pay grade. Neither he nor any of his IGMS staff were political appointees.